

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of procuring a component, comprising the steps of:  
establishing a bid criteria for said component;  
establishing a first bid request in response to said bid criteria;  
identifying at least one potential supplier for said component;  
submitting said bid request to said at least one potential supplier;  
receiving a bid response from at least one potential supplier;  
comparing said bid response with said bid criteria;  
determining said bid response is undesirable in response to said  
comparison;  
modifying said bid criteria in response to said bid response being  
undesirable;  
establishing a second bid request in response to said modified bid  
criteria;  
identifying at least one-second potential supplier;  
submitting said second bid request to said at least one-second  
potential supplier;  
receiving a bid response from at least one of said second potential  
suppliers; and  
selecting at least one of said second potential suppliers in response  
to said second bid response.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of  
modifying said bid criteria includes the steps of:

establishing a plurality of subcomponents, said subcomponents forming at least a portion of said component; and  
modifying said bid criteria in response to said plurality of subcomponents.

3. A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein the step of modifying said bid criteria includes the step of modifying said bid criteria in response to at least one of a design, a function, and a cost, associated with at least one of said subcomponents.

4. A method, as set forth in claim 3, wherein the step of establishing said second bid request includes the step of establishing said second bid request in response to said at least one of said subcomponents.

5. A method, as set forth in claim 4, wherein the step of establishing said second bid request includes the step of requesting at least one of a purchase of at least one of said subcomponents, a fabrication of at least one of said subcomponents, and an assembly of said subcomponents to form said component.

6. A method, as set forth in claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

assembling said component with a second component; and  
assembling a system in response to said component assembly.

7. A computer based method of procuring a component, comprising the steps of:  
establishing a bid criteria for a component;  
establishing a bid request in response to said bid criteria;

posting said bid request on a web site;  
receiving a bid response from at least one potential supplier;  
selecting at least one potential supplier to supply said component  
in response to said bid response;  
procuring said component from said supplier; and  
integrating said component with a system, said system including at  
least a second component.

8. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 7, wherein said  
bid request is an open bid request.

9. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 8, further  
comprising the steps of:  
comparing said bid response with said bid criteria;  
modifying said bid criteria in response to said bid response being  
an undesirable bid;  
establishing a second bid request in response to said modified bid  
criteria;  
establishing at least one second potential supplier;  
submitting said second bid request to said at least one-second  
potential suppliers;  
receiving a second bid response from at least one of said at least  
one second potential supplier.

10. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein  
the step of selecting one of said at least one potential supplier, includes the step  
of selecting one of said at least one potential suppliers in response to said second  
bid response.

11. A method of procuring at least one component associated with a custom system, comprising the steps of:

establishing a custom system design, said design including a plurality of components;

establishing a bid criteria for at least one of said plurality of components;

establishing a bid request in response to said bid criteria;

identifying at least one potential supplier for said at least one of said plurality of components;

submitting said bid request to said at least one potential supplier;

receiving a bid response from at least one of said potential supplier;

comparing said bid response with said bid criteria;

modifying said bid criteria in response to said bid response being an undesirable bid;

establishing a second bid request in response to said modified bid criteria;

establishing at least one second potential supplier;

submitting said second bid request to said at least one second potential suppliers;

receiving a second bid response from at least one of said second potential supplier; and

selecting one of said second potential suppliers to supply said component, in response to said second bid response